

Decision _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Develop and
Adopt Fire-Threat Maps and Fire-Safety
Regulations.

Rulemaking 15-05-006

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE**Summary**

This decision extends the statutory deadline for this proceeding to July 14, 2018.

1. Background

Public Utilities Code § 1701.5(a)¹ provides that quasi-legislative proceedings such as this one shall be resolved within 18 months of the date the Scoping Memo is issued, unless the Commission establishes an alternative deadline in the Scoping Memo or issues an order extending the deadline. The Scoping Memo for this proceeding was issued on July 15, 2016, and established a deadline of January 14, 2018, for resolving this proceeding.

On December 14, 2017, the Commission issued a decision in this proceeding that adopted significant new fire-safety regulations for the new High Fire-Threat District. However, there is one major task left in this proceeding:

¹ This proceeding was initiated prior to changes made to Public Utilities Code § 1701.5(a). These changes only apply to proceedings that commence after December 31, 2016.

The adoption of a statewide fire-threat map that will set the boundaries for the new High Fire-Threat District. The statewide fire-threat map is currently in an advanced stage of development.

Decision (“D.”) 17-01-009, as modified by D.17-06-024, adopted a work plan for completing the development and adoption of the statewide fire-threat map by the end of 2017. However, the task of developing a state-of-the-science fire-threat map that covers all of California, with an opportunity for input from many stakeholders, has been proven to be complex and technically challenging. As a result, on October 6, 2017, the co-assigned Administrative Law Judges issued a ruling that granted a joint motion for an extension of time. Under the ruling’s revised schedule, it is anticipated that the development of the fire-threat map and its adoption by the Commission will be completed in early 2018.

For the preceding reasons, there is good cause to extend the statutory deadline for this proceeding by six months, to July 14, 2018, to ensure there is adequate time in the proceeding schedule to complete the development and adoption of the fire-threat map.

2. Waiver of Comment Period

Pursuant to Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may reduce or waive the period for public review and comment of proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving quasi-legislative proceedings. Accordingly, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment is waived.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

Michael Picker is the assigned Commissioner and Valerie U. Kao and Timothy Kenney are the assigned Administrative Law Judges in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. The statutory deadline for resolving this proceeding is January 14, 2018.
2. It is necessary to extend the statutory deadline to July 14, 2018, to ensure adequate time to complete the development and adoption of the fire-threat map.

Conclusions of Law

1. The statutory deadline for this proceeding should be extended to July 14, 2018, pursuant to the Commission authority under Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a).
2. The following order should be effective immediately.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline for this proceeding is extended to July 14, 2018.

This order is effective today.

Dated _____, at San Francisco, California.